

ABSTRACT

A method for constructing an optical switch and the switch constructed thereby are described. An optical switch having a pair of chips is assembled with a plurality of optical fibers mounted on the chips such that endfaces of the fibers extend beyond ends of the chips. The optical fibers may be mounted by adhering them to the chips. The endfaces of the fibers and the front surfaces of the chips are then polished to provide coplanar surfaces which are good optical couplers. The chips are then etched with an etchant material which is ineffective at etching the optical fibers. The chips may include a coating which is resistant to the etchant material.

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